THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
BENGALURU • SUNDAY • JUNE 26, 2022 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 24 • LATE CITY EDITION

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ROMANCE OF WIMBLEDON: DJOKOVIC DEFENDS TITLE

Serbian Novak Djokovic and Spain's Rafa Nadal will reignite their famed rivalry at SW19 from Monday

RECORD PLAYER
Swiatek's current winning streak of 35, which encompasses six tournament titles in a row. She is tied for the longest by a woman this century

ALL EYES ON SERENA
Ranked a lowly 1,204 in the world and without a competitive singles match in 12 months, Serena Williams returns to Wimbledon targeting a record 24th Grand Slam and eighth title at Big W

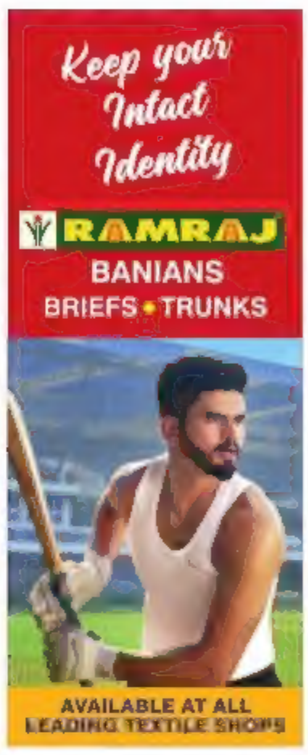
NO NIGHT SESSSIONS | There are no night sessions, unlike at the other three Grand Slam tournaments

TOP THREE SEEDS

Women		Men
IGA SWIATEK	FIRST	NOVAK DJOKOVIC
ANETT KONTAVEIT	SECOND	RAFAEL NADAL
ONS JABEUR	THIRD	CARLOS ALCARAZ

$50 mn
TOTAL PLAYER COMPENSATION. $2.5mn EACH TO WOMEN & MEN CHAMPS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI



JAB-O-METER TAKE YOUR SHOT
June 24 **13,90,325 doses**
June 25 **11,19,043 doses**
TOTAL: 1,07,06,96,547

MAYOR WISE	JUNE 24	JUNE 25	KARNATAKA	JUNE 24	JUNE 25
Fresh cases	11,136	15,940	Fresh cases	816	253
Recoveries	13,029	12,425	Recoveries	703	611
Deaths	13	28	Deaths	01	0

WITH THIS ISSUE
ANATOMY OF AN ASSASSINATION
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

Shinde meets Shah, Fadnavis?

To request expediting govt formation; Uddhav to sack six rebel ministers on Monday

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AMID buzz on rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde flying in to Vadodara on Friday night and meeting BJP leaders Amit Shah and Devendra Fadnavis to discuss government formation, the ruling coalition in the state sought to pressure the dissidents further.

According to highly placed sources, Fadnavis was seen at the Mumbai airport taking a Gujarat flight. "Rebel MLAs are getting restless. If there is delay in government formation, things can go awry. Shinde wanted to urge Shah to immediately intervene to resolve the crisis, hence the meeting," said a source. The leaders, however, were not available for comment.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray called a meeting of the Shiv Sena's national executive, which authorised him to take decisions to revamp the organisation. On Monday, Uddhav is expected to recommend the sacking of six ministers to Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari.

Both sides continued playing mind games with the rebels calling their group Shiv Sena (Balasaheb) and Shinde as its leader. Parallelly, a technical battle was being fought with Deputy Speaker Narhari Jirwal rejecting a no-confidence motion against him sought by the Shinde camp as it was sent via a random email address and was not submitted in person to the Speaker's office.

In a counter-attack, the legislature's secretary issued disqualification notices against 16 rebel Sena MLAs, seeking their explanations in writing along with supporting documents by Monday 5.30 pm as to why they failed to attend a party meeting in Mumbai on Wednesday or face disqualification.

However, the rebels refused to blink. "Since Shinde has the majority, our side should be heard first. Else, we will approach court and urge the governor to ask the government to prove its majority in the House," Deepak Kesarkar said. P7, P8

GUJARAT RIOTS

Day after SC verdict, police arrest Teesta, ex-DGP Sreekumar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mumbai

A day after a Supreme Court bench observed that people with vested interest had sought to keep the 2002 post-Godhra riots pot boiling and suggested action against them, the police arrested activist Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat DGP R B Sreekumar in Mumbai and Ahmedabad respectively on Saturday.

The Gujarat Police sent its Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) to Mumbai to arrest Setalvad. The court's ruling was widely read as pointing towards Setalvad's NGO, Citizens for Justice and Peace, which worked extensively with many victims, including petitioner Zakia Jafri, whose family was a victim of the Gulbarg Society massacre. Setalvad was a co-petitioner in the case.

As for Setalvad, she lodged a complaint at Santacruz against the Gujarat Police ATS for banging her door and assaulting her.

Activist Teesta Setalvad at Santacruz police station after being detained by Gujarat cops, in Mumbai | PTI

Earlier in the day, the Ahmedabad Crime Branch arrested Sreekumar after registering a complaint and conducting a preliminary inquiry. The complaint named Sanjeev Bhatt, Sreekumar and Teesta Setalvad as accused, adding they misrepresented information, damaged the image of Gujarat and abused the legal process. According to the complaint, they had created a situation where false evidence was thrown against the Special Investigation Team probing the case, the trial court, the Gujarat High Court and the Supreme Court.

Punjab in debt trap, says White Paper

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE AAP government in Punjab on Saturday admitted the state was being pushed deeper into a debt trap in a White Paper it tabled in the Assembly, but sought to blame the previous governments for the economic morass.

The economies of quite a few state governments are under similar stress, but it is only Punjab that has accepted it upfront. Just last week, the RBI had warned that the economies of Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Bihar are in deep trouble. But Kerala sought to rebut it.

Punjab's debt has spiraled to ₹2.63 lakh crore and the state has ₹24,351.29 crore worth liabilities to service in the immediate term, the document said.

"The current debt indicators of the state are probably the worst in the country, pushing it deeper into a debt trap," it claimed. The White Paper was tabled by state finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema on the second day of ongoing budget session.

It quantified the current debt as a whopping 45.88% of the state GDP.

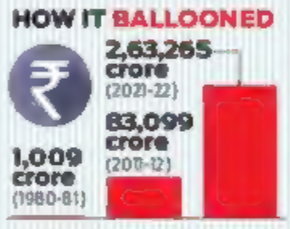
Debt ballooned 44.23% in the last five years at a compounded annual growth rate of 7.6%, the document added.

Pointing fingers at the previous Congress government, it said they left an immediate and medium-term liability of ₹24,351.29 crore. Of that amount, ₹13,759 crore will go towards non-payment of arrears of the sixth pay commission and ₹7,117.86 crore for power subsidy arrears.

State of crisis

₹2,63,265 cr
Total outstanding debt*

HOW IT BALLOONED



*44.23% growth in debt over past five years

FREEDOM FOR ALL

Thousands of students, cadets and folk artistes participate in the 'Amruth Bharatige Kannadada Arati' to create awareness on the contribution of Mysuru to the Indian freedom struggle, at Ramaswamy Circle in Mysuru on Saturday. In all, 1,000 NSS volunteers, 200 NCC cadets, 1,000 dancers, 150 folk artistes and 2,000 students took part | UDAYASHANKAR S

ED arrests Mantri Developers head in PMLA case

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @ Bengaluru

THE Director of Bengaluru-based real estate company Mantri Developers Private Limited, Sushil P Mantri has been arrested by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on charges of money laundering. In a press statement, ED said Mantri was summoned for questioning under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, following which he has been arrested under Section 19 of the PMLA.

The ED had launched its probe based on a FIR registered against the company, its directors and many employees at the Subramanyapura Police Station in Bengaluru in the year 2020.

The probe agency which took over the investigation on March 22 has found that the money collected from prospective buyers of flats offered by the company in Bengaluru has been diverted for personal use by the management of the company or for other fraudulent purposes and hence the project is stalled.

A court remanded Mantri to ED custody for 10 days. The ED statement said the group had borrowed Rs 5,000 crore from various financial institutes and around Rs 1,000 crore is overdue. Some of the loan has been termed as non-performing assets (NPA).

During investigation, it was found that the company offered various Ponzi-like schemes which was named as buy-back plan and advance money was collected for flats/homes. In some cases, the company has not refunded the amount to the buyers even after clear direction from Rear Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

GST compensation cess levy extended till 2026

New Delhi: The Centre has extended the time for levy of GST compensation cess by nearly four years till March 31, 2026. It was to end on June 30 but the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state FMs, on Saturday decided to extend it so that states can repay the loans taken in the last two fiscal years to make up for the shortfall in their revenue collection | P10

'No withdrawal of Land Reforms, APMC Acts'

Bengaluru: After the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre repealed the three controversial farm laws last year, there was a demand for repealing Karnataka Land Reforms and APMC Acts that were passed by the state government. In an interview with The New Sunday Express, Agriculture Minister B C Patil asserted that the state government has decided to retain both the Acts | P4

State Urdu schools hit by teacher shortage

NAMRATA SINGHWANI
@ Bengaluru

MANY Urdu schools in the state are hit by a shortage of teachers resulting in students being deprived of quality education. The lesser number of teachers available leads to them spending more time in miscellaneous tasks, instead of focussing on quality teaching.

The number of teachers qualifying in recruitment tests has been less, which has been the main issue for shortage of teaching staff in Karnataka Urdu schools, said an official from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Data from the Department of

Public Instruction website show that there is a shortage of 13 per cent teachers in primary schools and 11 per cent in high schools.

Teachers say they are in dire need of more staff as they are overburdened and forced to work for longer hours.

Shakila Banu, a teacher from Government Urdu Higher Primary School (GUHPS) in Sampangi Ramanagar said, "Due to shortage of teachers, we have to teach an extra 12 to 16 subjects. We often have to work for longer hours and do extra work like filing documents in offices due to which we are unable to give full attention to the students."

Another teacher Saleha Fatima from GUHPS in Byrasandra said that one of the primary school branches was in urgent need of new recruits as they have around 500 students with 80 to 90 students per class. "It is getting difficult for teachers to manage such a large batch at once", she said. P3

Due to shortage of teachers, we have to teach an extra 12 to 16 subjects. We often have to work for longer hours and do extra work like filing documents in offices due to which we are unable to give full attention to the students

Shakila Banu, a teacher from Govt Urdu Higher Primary School

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	30% of the seats on the basis of normalised +2 aggregate marks		
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